



NEWS RELEASE

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Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Votes to Allow Early Admission to Examinations

Move helps state secure more licensed engineers at a faster rate

SANTA ROSA – California could see more licensed engineers as a result of a decision by the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS) to allow early admission to professional licensure examinations.

The Board voted unanimously today to move to allow candidates to take their Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying examinations any time after they have graduated. This will allow engineers to become licensed faster. Currently, candidates for licensure may only take the exam two years after graduating from their program, adding time to the licensure process.

“This is in keeping with Governor Schwarzenegger’s call to increase the number of new engineers in California,” said Carrie Lopez, Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). “The governor has made it abundantly clear that California needs more engineers in order to make needed infrastructure-related improvements and the Board’s vote is a step in the right direction.”

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The Board's vote to have staff proceed with the change is aimed at allowing candidates greater flexibility as to when they take their PE examinations.

"The change could also mean a more even inflow of new engineer licensees," said BPELS Executive Officer Cindi Christenson. "The way it is now, we essentially license candidates twice a year, after we receive the exam results. What we expect will happen is that we will now be able to license engineers on a flow basis, since candidates will be able to take their exams anytime after they have graduated. We can then license them as soon as they have obtained their practical experience."

Christenson stressed that the licensure requirements themselves would not change, just the order in which those requirements can be satisfied.

Several changes to statutes and regulations will be needed before any changes can take effect. The changes are not expected to be controversial.

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